

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) In a system for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance, a combination comprising:

first means defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, said first means including a second means for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and

~~second~~ third means for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships,

whereby benchmarks are established for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization.

2. (Currently amended) In a business method for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance, the steps comprising:

obtaining the inputs of participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and relationships within the organization;

defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships; and

quantifying the agreement among said various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships,

whereby benchmarks are established for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization.

3. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

~~a~~ the metric for "CLARITY".

4. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

~~a~~ the metric for "INVOLVEMENT".

5. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

~~a~~ the metric for "LEVERAGE".

6. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

~~a~~ the metric for “PRIORITY”.

7. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

~~a~~ the metric for “RELATIVE PRIORITY”.

8. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

~~a~~ the metric for “INTEGRATION”.

9. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristic includes ~~a~~ the metric for “CLARITY” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Clarity = \frac{Links(confirmed)}{Link(confirmed) + Links(unconfirmed)}$$

the range of clarity is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 represents a total lack of clarity and 1 represents perfect agreement (within the preset agreement criteria).

10. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristic includes ~~a~~ the metric for “INVOLVEMENT” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Involvement = \frac{L}{N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L = confirmed links with Importance ≥ 3

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of

links in a population of size N)

the range of involvement is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no important interactions with others and 1 = full involvement.

11. (Currently amended) A combination/method as set forth in either claims claim 1 or 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a the metric for “LEVERAGE” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Leverage = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L^a = number of confirmed links with Importance = a

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of
links in a population of size N)

the range of leverage is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no leverage and 1 = maximum leverage.

12. (Currently amended) A combination/method as set forth in either claims claim 1 or 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a the metric for “PRIORITY” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Priority = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{10N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L_a = number of half-links with Impact = a

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of
links in a population of size N)

the range of priority values is $0 \leq 1$.

13. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristic includes a ~~the~~ metric for “RELATIVE PRIORITY” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$\text{Relative Priority} = \frac{P_p}{\sum_i P_i}$$

where: P_n = Priority value of issue n

i = issue number_a

14. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristic includes a ~~the~~ metric for “INTEGRATION” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$\text{Intergration} = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N_1N_2}$$

where: L_a = number of confirmed links between unit 1 and unit 2 with

Importance = a

N₁, N₂ = total number of links in unit 1 and unit 2

the range of integration is 0 ≤ 1, where 0 = no connection between units and 1 = full integration.

15. (Withdrawn) Each and every novel feature and/or combination of novel features herein disclosed.

16. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for “CLARITY”.

17. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for “INVOLVEMENT”.

18. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for “LEVERAGE”.

19. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for “PRIORITY”.

20. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for “RELATIVE PRIORITY”.

21. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for “INTEGRATION”.

22. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes
a metric for “CLARITY” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$\text{Clarity} = \frac{\text{Links}(\text{confirmed})}{\text{Link}(\text{confirmed}) + \text{Links}(\text{unconfirmed})}$$

the range of clarity is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 represents a total lack of clarity and 1 represents perfect agreement (within the preset agreement criteria).

23. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes
a metric for “INVOLVEMENT” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Involvement = \frac{L}{N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L = confirmed links with Importance ≥ 3

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a population of size N)

the range of involvement is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no important interactions with others and 1 = full involvement.

24. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for “LEVERAGE” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Leverage = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L^a = number of confirmed links with Importance = a

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a population of size N)

the range of leverage is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no leverage and 1 = maximum leverage.

25. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for “PRIORITY” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Priority = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{10N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L_a = number of half-links with Impact = a

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a population of size N)

the range of priority values is $0 \leq 1$.

26. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for “RELATIVE PRIORITY” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$\text{Relative Priority} = \frac{P_n}{\sum_i P_i}$$

where: P_n = Priority value of issue n

i = issue number.

27. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for “INTEGRATION” which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$\text{Integration} = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N_1N_2}$$

where: L_a = number of confirmed links between unit 1 and unit 2 with

Importance = a

N_1, N_2 = total number of links in unit 1 and unit 2

the range of integration is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no connection between units and 1 = full integration.